

But Washington has now had time to think through its next moves. It is likely the administration will simply allow the two sides to battle it out, with Unita continuing to receive US arms, perhaps at an increased pace, and the Fapla forces lacking Cuban support - half of Cuba's 50 000 troops have already moved out, ahead of schedule.

Then, when the positions of the players on the board have been shaken up, a new round of negotiations can begin.

Despite any offence it may give in the region, the US has been markedly hardline about its support for Unita. Africa envoy Herman Cohen, visiting Dakar last month, told a press conference that there were now 'two governments' in Angola. Unita would not be abandoned, he said, because you don't abandon your friends 'just when they are about to get down to real negotiations'. If the issue is mainly military, arms supplies are crucial. And here South Africa still has a role. Reports from northern Namibia have for some time indicated that despite the pres-

ence of Untag monitors - or because of their scarcity on the ground - convoys of trucks and other military vehicles are still moving across the border.

Journalists visiting Jamba reveal that it is still amply provisioned from the south. However, a new border monitoring group was set up last month - announced during the Johannesburg meeting of the tripartite verification commission by South Africa's foreign ministry director general Neil van Heerden - to monitor and solve problems on the spot.

It consists of representatives of Angola, Cuba and South Africa, and Untag, US and Soviet observers. If it is allowed to operate fully, it will at least limit the convoys of supplies heading for Jamba.

Some US senators were suggesting last month that Zaire had cut off the flow of US aid to the Unita forces. There has been no evidence that this is so, and whatever the real situation in the air and on the road from Kamina in Zaire (through which US arms to Unita have been routed in the past), Luanda is choosing to turn a blind

eye. On the surface its relations with Zaire have never been better.

Nowadays there are fewer fixed points to guide diplomats in the region and many more variables. All eyes are on Namibia: the way it emerges first into the post-election period and then into independence will clarify South Africa's intentions. The US may not want to upset a balance of a kind by pushing too hard in Angola at this time.

In the slow motion shuttle diplomacy throughout the region, South African foreign minister Pik Botha has been talking with his Angolan counterpart Pedro de Castro Van Dunem 'Loy'. Nothing has been revealed of the substance of their talks. The scheduled visit by De Klerk to Houphouet may also indicate their next play.

But in regional policy, as in domestic South African policy, strategies seem to be giving way to tactical moves.

The only constants are the interests the players represent and are seeking to foster.

## 1990 Community Calendar



January 1990

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

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